

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 16 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 11-12, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, this amendment cancels claim 5, amends independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable, canceled claim 5, rewrites claim 11 into independent form, amends claim 16 to depend from allowable independent claim 11, and cancels non-elected claims 21-47 to place the application into condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6-20, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

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